

## Message Text

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72

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 SIL-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SS-15 DRC-01 /083 W

----- 059250

R 251445Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4710

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL GABORONE 1447

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BC

SUBJ: PROPOSED MINING TRADE MISSION

REF: A) STATE 178114, B) GABORONE 1371

1. BASED CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICERS MINMINERAL RESOURCES  
AND WATER AFFAIRS AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, EMBASSY BELIEVES  
PROPOSED TRADE MISSION COULD COUNT ON INTEREST AND  
PARTICIPATION FOLLOWING GOB REPS:

A. MINMINES AND WATER AFFAIRS: TWO TO THREE ENGINEERS.  
COMMISSIONER DPTY COMMISSIONER OF MINES. TWO TO  
THREE PLANNING OFFICERS.

B. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY: DIRECTOR AND TWO TO THREE GEOLOGISTS.

C. MINFIN AND DEV PLANNING; SHASHE PROJECT  
COORDINATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SHASHE  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT. ONE OR TWO ECONOMIC  
PLANNERS.

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D. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. ONE OR TWO REPRESENTATIVES.

2. APRIL WOULD APPEAR AUSPICIOUS FOR EVENT IN VIEW CURRENT ACTIVITIES. PROSPECTS REPORTEDLY PROMISING FOR DEVELOPMENT IN FAIRLY NEAR TERM OF SODA ASH MINE IN MAKGADIKGADI PAN. BRST SUBSIDIARY, MAKGADIKGADI SODA LTD, ALLEGEDLY EXPECTED COMPLETE BY END 1973 EXPLORATION AND DESIGN FOR REFINERY TO BE LOCATED AT MINE SITE. POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS FOR MINING SALT, ALTHOUGH PLANS FOR POTASH AND SALT CAKE PRODUCTION DROPPED. GOB REPORTS IT FAIRLY LIKELY DEBEERS WILL PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT SECOND DIAMOND MINE IN 1974. ANTICIPATED EXPLORATION AND NEGOTIATION WILL BE COMPLETED BY END THIS YEAR. PAST YEAR HAS WITNESSED GREAT INCREASE INTEREST LONG RANGE EXPLORATION BOTSWANA'S ESTIMATED 40,000 MILLION TONS OF COAL RESERVES. NUMBER OF LARGE FIRMS HAVE APPLIED FOR PROSPECTING LICENSES AND IT ANTICIPATED FROM THREE TO SIX CONCESSIONS WILL BE GRANTED BY END OF YEAR. ALSO BY END OF YEAR, IT BELIEVED NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE COMPLETED WITH MINERAL RESEARCH PTY FOR MINING OF GYPSUM. INITIALLY, YEARLY PRODUCTION, WHICH TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED BEGIN IN 1974, WILL AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY 5000 TONS WHILE MINING FACILITY WILL REPORTEDLY EMPLOY FAIRLY SIMPLE SCREENING PROCESS. IN MEANTIME, US STELL CONTINUES WITH ACTIVE COPPER-NICKEL EXPLORATION IN NW BOTSWANA.

3. FROM ABOVE WOULD APPEAR FOLLOWING PRODUCTS, TECHNIQUES AND SYSTEMS WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

A. INSTRUMENTATION AND EQUIPMENT USED IN PROSPECTING FOR COAL, DIAMONDS, COPPER, NICKEL AND RELATED MINERALS.

B. DIAMOND, COAL, COPPER, NICKEL AND GYPSUM MINING AND REFINING EQUIPMENT.

C. MINE SPARES

D. EXPLOSIVES, MINING AND QUARRYING SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND MINING AND REFINING POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT. IN THIS REGARD, GOB MINMINES INTENDS ENFORCE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRINGENTLY EXISTING REGULATIONS PERTAINING USE OF EXPLOSIVES. BY END OF 1973 IT HOPES TO COMPLETE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS OF 1971 AIR POLLUTION ACT. MOREOVER, MINMINES CURRENTLY DRAFTING COMPREHENSIVE "MINES, QUARRIES WORKS MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT BILL" WHICH WILL SET SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRY.

E. EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOR PROVIDE MORE DETAILED  
INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT NEEDS AND SUGGESTION FOR  
PROPOSED SEMINAR FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS REPS OF PRIVATE  
FIRMS. AIRGRAM ON MINE DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE  
PROSPECTS FOLLOWS. NELSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 120  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) STATE 178114, B) GABORONE 1371  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED MINING TRADE MISSION  
**TAGS:** BEXP, BC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005